

**Amendments To the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph 19 of page 6 of the disclosure with the following amended paragraph:

Similarly, the software elements of the invention may be implemented with any programming, scripting language or web service protocols such as C, C++, Java, COBOL, assembler, PERL, SOAP, XML, UDDI, OFX, or the like, with the various algorithms being implemented with any combination of data structures, objects, processes, routines or other programming elements. Further, it should be noted that the invention may employ any number of conventional techniques for data transmission, signaling, data processing, network control, and the like, e.g., TCP/IP, IPX, Appletalk, IP-v6, NetBIOS, OSI or any number of existing or future protocols. For additional information on communication systems, network programming, web services, and security, refer to Gilber Held, "Understanding Data Communications," (1996); Dilip Naik, "Internet Standards and Protocols," (1998); and Java 2 Complete, various authors (Sybex 1999); the Object Management Group web site website at <http://omg.org>; the Sun Microsystems JAVA web site at <http://www.sun.java.com>; the Universal Description, Discovery, and Integration Organization web site at <http://www.uddi.org>; and "Cryptography & Network Security: Principles & Practice" by William Stalling, published by Prentice Hall; all of which are incorporated by reference.

Please replace the paragraph 31 of page 12 of the disclosure with the following amended paragraph:

Tax authority calculation calculator 108 may be implemented as a database located on a server within the system, and may be locally owned by a service or located on a network, such as the Internet. It should be realized that a plurality of tax authority calculation calculator 108 systems may exist with each one corresponding to a taxing authority. Alternatively, multiple taxing authorities may coexist on a single server. In general, a request is made to each tax authority calculation calculator 108 for tax information via the network 104. The request may contain pertinent information for tax authority calculation calculator 108 to use in determining the applicable levy due. For example, the information may include, but not limited to, the spatial location of the transaction, quantity ordered, service or merchandise type, or seller and purchaser identification codes. In one particular embodiment, for each request sent to an appropriate tax

authority calculation calculator 108, a response consisting of the applicable tax rate as well as payment modality will be returned, e.g., to personal communication device 102 or the requester. Used herein, "payment modality" refers to the type, form or kind of payment, e.g., electronic cash wallet, credit card, debit card, etc, or the protocol, conditions and category of the payment, e.g., electronic payment, c.o.d., bank check, etc. The response returned to the personal communication device or seller may contain one or more of an IP address of each tax authority calculation calculator (e.g., tax authority calculation calculator 108), DNS name of each tax authority calculation, Universal Resource Identifier (URI; reference [www.w3c.org](http://www.w3c.org)) to be used at tax authority calculation, message identifier of the request to be made, list of fields to be sent, and version of the message message will be returned, e.g., to personal communication device 102. Recognizing that different tax authorities may provide the service on a unified or consolidated basis, a single composite tax rate may be returned for a single transaction request that represents a total tax due for the transaction.

Please replace the paragraph 35 of page 14 of the disclosure with the following amended paragraph:

In one particular embodiment, the location information provided by tax directory 106 includes a specific implementation for the Internet such as use of a high-level domain name qualifier, e.g., ".tax". For example, tax directory 106 may be located as [www.taxdirectory.tax](http://www.taxdirectory.tax). This domain may be owned and operated by a single entity (e.g., Directory Service Manager ("DSM")) which could control updates to domain name service (DNS) updates. The DMS may only allow legitimate taxing authorities to be present in the .tax domain by verifying the legitimacy of the requesting taxing authority before adding or changing their records in the .tax domain. In this manner, the tax authority calculation can be trusted. The trust level of tax directory 106, when implemented as a DNS, can be improved by use of Secure DNS as defined by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). For further understanding of the systems and methods of Secure DNS, refer to the proceedings and publications concerning DNSSEC by the IETF located at the IETF web site which is hereby at WWW.IETF.ORG incorporated by reference for the general functionality of general DNS. A trusted tax authority calculation service, once verified, may be provided an interface to the .tax DNS to make modifications to the records without repeated verification. The DNS may also have a standard address format, so that the

form of the trusted tax authority calculation service can be independently arrived at by logical extrapolation. For example, a trusted tax authority for a U.S. city may be, www.ci.peoria.il.us.tax, where "ci" indicates a city, "peoria" indicates the name of the city, "il" indicates the regional abbreviation, "us" indicates a standard country abbreviation, and finally "tax" indicates the domain.